Agile Estimating & Planning: A Closer Look

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Introduction:

Agile and especially scrum has been a buzz word now a days. Most of the big IT brands have either already moved to scrum or in process of. If you are wondering how to effectively estimate and plan a scrum project, which rituals of scrum bring what value to project management, then this two days' workshop is aimed to address the same. It will provide an opportunity to participants to learn how to effectively capture and manage requirements as user stories, how to estimate the scope, planning for different horizons, monitor the scrum projects.

Learning Objectives: The course will enable participants to ...

- Understand why agile came into existence
- Learn how agile techniques are different and why
- Explore techniques to effectively capture and manage requirements using user stories
- Explore techniques to estimate scope of work
- Learn how to create reliable plans which can be trusted by stakeholders
- Creating and maintaining different plans with varying levels of details
- Learn techniques to bring visibility and predictability in projects

Participants' profile:

- It would help if participants have worked on projects, project management background will be an advantage.
- Know-how about Agile would be nice to have but not a must requirement

Duration: 2 day

Course Outline:

Day	Session	What Is Covered	Method Followed
1	1	Introduction, expectation setting, agenda	
1	2	 Agile PM Understand concept of iterative and incremental development How and why did it originate What PM challenges it can address and how Agile manifesto Agile umbrella of various methods 	Interactive discussion
1	3	Scrum FrameworkHow this supports progressive elaborationHow scrum forces rolling wave planning	White board based interactive discussions
		Lunch Break	
1	4	 Requirements management Challenges with requirements How to define requirements with varying levels of details Understand requirements elicitation and specification How this supports agile estimations 	 Case study based Activity based – participants to elicit requirements for a sample case study project
1	5	Estimating projects	Case study based

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Day	Session	What Is Covered	Method Followed
рау	Session	 What is covered Why estimation is challenging Not knowing all details, but still having to estimate Accept changing requirements, still having to estimate and plan 	Activity based – participants to estimates requirements captured on previous day for a sample case study project
		 Estimating size, effort and duration Agile estimation techniques like poker, T-shirt sizing, etc (size, effort and duration estimates) How it can help address challenge with uncertainty associated with estimates How is it different than traditional approach 	
2	1	Demonstrate All of day 1 into an agile project management tool like JIRA or TFS	Hands-on demonstration
2	2	 Planning projects Why up-front planning may not work Why planning is difficult? Why people lose faith in plans? How does agile planning work (planning onion) Release and sprint planning techniques How it can help address challenge with uncertainty associated with plans How is it different than traditional approach? 	Case study based Activity based – participants to plan a project estimated by them for a sample case study project
	_	Lunch Break	
2	3	 Monitoring project progress Why monitor and control How does agile project monitoring work (planning onion) Release and sprint level monitoring techniques How it can help address challenge with uncertainty associated with plans How is it different than traditional approach? 	Interactive discussion
2	4	 An activity for participants to create a release and sprint plan in JIRA or TFS 	 Hands-on experience for participants

Note: This overall flow of the course is subject to change based on participants 'interactions & queries.